

# THE NATIONAL CAPITAL

## WEEK IN WASHINGTON.

**SUNDAY, JAN. 26.**—The Japanese Legation received an important cablegram from the Foreign Office of Japan, by the terms of which the rich island of Formosa, which Japan acquired from China, was to be opened up to trade and commerce. It is decreed that subjects and citizens of powers having commercial treaties with Japan may reside up to the limit of 100,000 in Formosa, and that Japanese may visit and carry cargo to and from the ports and harbors of Tamsui, Keelung, Amoy, and Takao. The treaties of commerce and navigation and the tariff and arrangements existing and now in force between Japan and other powers are, so far as they are applicable, extended to the subjects, citizens, and vessels of such powers being in or resorting to Formosa.

**MONDAY, JAN. 27.**—Justice Peckham, the new member of the United States Supreme Court, delivered his first opinion in that court. The opinion was in the case involving the right of the Government to condemn the real estate of the Gettysburg Electric Railway Company as a part of the National Park. The court below had decided that the act of Congress authorizing the establishment of the park, in so far as it applied to the condemnation of private property, was unconstitutional, and that there was no right under it to condemn Justice Peckham's decision reversed this, deciding the law to be valid, and sustaining the condemnation proceeding.

**TUESDAY, JAN. 28.**—The House Committee on Military Affairs decided today to recommend the creation of a National Military Park on the Vicksburg battlefield, and to report to the House the bill introduced by Mr. Catesby. The park contemplated will embrace 1,200 acres where the opposing armies were lined at the siege of Vicksburg. The bill provides for a commission of three to outline the site, to be appointed by the Secretary of War, and a Secretary and Historian. The cost is limited to \$50,000, but the entire expense of the park, if this project is carried out, will be half a million.

**WEDNESDAY, JAN. 29.**—There will probably be no color line drawn in the United States Navy hereafter, for the four regulars of the seaman gunner's class of instruction at the Washington Navy-yard, who were found guilty by a court-martial of hazing their colored colleagues, were sentenced to two months' imprisonment and to loss of pay for that time. This sentence has been approved by Acting Secretary McAdoo.

**THURSDAY, JAN. 30.**—Maj. Gen. Nelson A. Miles appeared before the Committee on Coast Defenses and made a statement of the condition of the coast defenses of the Atlantic and Pacific coasts and Gulf of Mexico. He says that the guns now mounted at Savannah, Charleston, and other ports are smooth-bore of obsolete pattern, and are mounted on rotten carriages. The only places where provision has been made for any considerable defense are New York, San Francisco, and Boston, where the defenses are entirely inadequate and insufficient. He said that our cities are open to attack by any country having a large navy, and that it would take years to make the necessary armament for their defense.

**FRIDAY, JAN. 31.**—The President instructed the Dawes Commission to prepare a bill for the approval which would provide, according to their idea, the best recognition scheme possible for the Indian Government. This is a very radical step for the President to take in the light of his past convictions. No one has yet received a greater address than he of the continual recognition of Indian sovereignty. But he has evidently become convinced that the welfare of the Indian people outside of such recognition is a mere time-honored fiction. He has decided that the time has come for the Government to protect the Indian against himself and against his treacherous advisers. The Commission made very radical recommendations, and the subject of the abrogation of treaty rights and the forcible abolition of the Indian Government in its last report to the President. If it draws a bill in line with these ideas there is little to be hoped for these Indians who are still contending for the complete control of their own affairs.

**SATURDAY, FEB. 1.**—The official Treasury statement of the receipts and expenditures of the Government for January last, and for the seven months of the fiscal year to date was issued today. It shows that the receipts for seven months have been \$190,905,724, an increase of \$9,012,000, and the expenditures \$215,092,101, a decrease of \$5,383,000 as compared with the corresponding months of the fiscal year 1894-95. The surplus of revenues for the seven months has been Customs, \$98,722,070; internal revenue, \$87,925,866; miscellaneous, \$10,157,787. Customs receipts show a gain of \$1,000,000 over the corresponding seven months of the fiscal year 1894-95; internal revenue receipts show a loss of \$3,270,000, and miscellaneous receipts show a gain of \$1,150,000. The expenditures for the seven months of the current fiscal year were: Civil and miscellaneous, \$53,577,071; War, \$34,104,838; Navy, \$16,029,720; Indians, \$6,553,210; Pensions, \$11,223,340; interest, \$24,925,784. The expenditures for the seven months of the fiscal year 1894-95 were: Civil and miscellaneous, \$53,577,071; War, \$34,104,838; Navy, \$16,029,720; Indians, \$6,553,210; Pensions, \$11,223,340; interest, \$24,925,784.

The Treasury's official statement shows that Government receipts for the month of January were, in round numbers, \$29,000,000, and the expenditures \$32,500,000, making a deficit for the month of \$3,500,000, and for the first seven months of the fiscal year \$19,000,000. We haven't heard so much of that "comfortable surplus" recently.

The warship Texas appears to be all right, after all the harsh criticisms. The changes to be made are relatively insignificant, and the naval officers pronounce her one of the most efficient war-ships of her class afloat.

**CHAT OF THE CORRIDORS.**  
A medal of honor has been presented to Samuel C. Wright, of South Boston, Mass., late Sergeant of Co. E, 29th Mass., for most distinguished gallantry in action at Antietam, Md., Sept. 17, 1862. This non-commissioned officer voluntarily advanced under a destructive fire and removed a fence which would have impeded a contemplated charge.

One of the most remarkable heads of hair in all Congress adorns the head of the gentleman from Chicago, Lorimer. His name ought to be Taffy, for really he has the taffiest-colored hair ever seen outside of a Titian canvas. His hair is thick, a little long and has a bit of curl at the ends. When the sun strikes across the painted plaques in the ceiling the reflection lights up Lorimer's hair till it looks a very bright red. It is such hair as a woman would be a target for a good many envious female eyes and the subject of much feminine discussion.

Representative Talbert, of South Carolina, who was conspicuous in the last Congress for his persistent opposition to the passage of private pension claims, will doubtless have some more fun trying to block just legislation this year. He makes the foolish allegation that there are bills on the calendar proposing to grant pensions to the widows of veterans, and also to pension widows of veterans who have married a second wife at the same time. That class of claims is not in accordance with the spirit of the General Pension act, and he will fight them to the bitter end. He says he is not opposed to granting pensions in deserving cases, oh no! and he

would not deprive an old soldier or a soldier's widow from the benefit of the pension laws, but in such cases, where a deliberate attempt is made to rob the Government in the interest of persons who have not a shadow of a claim to a pension, he feels that he is justified in offering every opposition that is given him in the rules of the House. At the Friday night sessions in the last Congress Mr. Talbert, who is Senator Tillman's Lieutenant, made some very lively scenes in connection with private pension legislation. He is a talker of the Tillman type, but he is not so abusive.

Once upon a time Gen. Grant was beaten. He was beaten in less than half a minute, and he made no attempt to fight back.

"The Masonic Temple in New York was on fire. The temple is on the corner of Twenty-third street and Sixth avenue, and the fire happened more than 10 years ago. The fire lines were formed, snow was falling, and the police went out of temper. Along from the Fifth Avenue Hotel there came a small man, with his hands in his pockets and a big cigar sticking out of the corner of his mouth. He did not notice the fire lines or anything, but walked straight ahead with his head down. He ran into the arms of a big policeman who had tied himself pushing people back. 'Black, black, black!' said the policeman, 'do you take me for a wooden Indian?' Without waiting for an answer, the policeman seized the small man by the collar, and with a few more blacks, brought his club with a loud crack across the small man's back behind the waist. The small man said not a word, barely looked up and resumed his walk, with his hands still in his pockets. Someone said to the policeman, 'Great heavens, man! do you know what you've done? Do you know who that was you clubbed?' 'Now,' said the policeman, 'I don't.' 'Well, it's Gen. Grant.' And his face fell almost to pieces."

Senator Potter doesn't play cards, drink, smoke or chew, and he isn't given to society frivolities of any kind, and one wonders what weakness he has. It is children! Yes, children and animals. He loves real girly girls of the natural kind, and many boys, old or young. He likes to watch the children in their plays on the street, and isn't a bit averse to taking a hand at marbles or suggesting that the tail of a kite is too light or too heavy. Cats instinctively run up against him, recognizing a friend, and dogs are his devoted admirers.

The papers have recently been saying that Justice Field is willing to retire if he can be allowed to name his successor. I very much doubt it. In spite of his age, Justice Field is quite young yet when it comes to hard and persistent work, and his will and his prejudices are as strong as they were a half-century ago. He does not love even a little bit the Democracy of the President and those around him, and he is determined that Cleveland shall not have the pleasure of rewarding one of these latter-day Democrats with his seat. So his fixed purpose in life is to live and hold his seat until after March 4, 1897. I rather think he will do it.

Senator Call, of Florida, is following in the footsteps of the late Senator Van Wyck, of Nebraska, in wanting to investigate everything under the sun. He has a new resolution nearly every day on some subject. Like Van Wyck, he does not really want to investigate anything—merely the chance to make a speech and a sensation. His investigations all end there.

After an Executive session of two hours the Senate confirmed Col. Coppinger's nomination as Brigadier-General, by a vote of 44 to 17. The opposition to the nomination was led by Senators Burrows, Gear, Perkins, Teller, Pettigrew, Squire, and Wilson, and Coppinger's cause was advocated by Senators Hawley, Bate, and Palmer.

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Mrs. Arthur Brown, wife of the Senator from Utah, is a handsome, dark-eyed woman, who comes from old Revolutionary stock, her grandfather being Daniel Cameron, of New York. Her father migrated to Kalamazoo, where she was born. Her husband was born only seven miles from Kalamazoo, and the Browns and Camerons were intimate. She is a woman of large intelligence and very decided views. She was not originally in favor of woman suffrage, but since that has been decided on by her State, she is going to make the most of it, and do her best to educate the women voters of Utah up to Republicanism. She thinks that, as they are women more than men, they will be more intelligent in the work. Utah needs Republicanism. She has sheep, wool, mines, and other products that deserve protection, and there is a strong movement to develop silk culture.

Senator F. J. Cannon, of Utah, and his wife, are of the same age, were born near each other, and married early. They have four children. Both are sincere believers in the revelations of Joseph Smith, polygamy and all, but cordially accept the law which has placed plural wives under the ban. Mrs. Cannon thinks that the institution has been grossly slandered, that women under it were treated with as much respect as elsewhere, and the fine men and noble women of the State to-day, who were born of plural marriages, are proof of the character of the system. She was an original Woman Suffragist, and a delegate to the recent convention held in Washington.

The majority of the Senate Committee on Privileges and Elections has reported in favor of seating Col. Du Pont, as Senator from Delaware, and the minority against it. The question turns upon whether Senator Watson, of Utah, who has married a second wife at the same time, is not in accordance with the spirit of the General Pension act, and he will fight them to the bitter end. He says he is not opposed to granting pensions in deserving cases, oh no! and he

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one, which they proceeded to utilize by the election of Col. Dupont. But Watson claims that on May 6, at the time of the election, he was still acting as Senator; that he was recognized as President of the Senate and voted on at least one bill. He has made affidavit to this effect. But the Senate journal fails to support his claim, and there is no record of his vote on any bill that day.

Army and Navy Ordnance officials are deeply interested in the reported wonderful achievements in photography attributed to the Roentgen light by which conditions prevailing throughout the interior of solids are accurately depicted, as in their opinion it will revolutionize the methods now in vogue for the inspection of armor and gun material, obviating any possibility of contractors foisting hollow pieces and other internally defective material in place of the Government, in addition to affording facilities for securing unimpeachable evidence as to the efficiency of various hardening processes, and in their opinion it will revolutionize the methods now in vogue for the inspection of armor and gun material, obviating any possibility of contractors foisting hollow pieces and other internally defective material in place of the Government, in addition to affording facilities for securing unimpeachable evidence as to the efficiency of various hardening processes, and in their opinion it will revolutionize the methods now in vogue for the inspection of armor and gun material, obviating any possibility of contractors foisting hollow pieces and other internally defective material in place of the Government, in addition to affording facilities for securing unimpeachable evidence as to the efficiency of various hardening processes.

Among the other desirable applications of the process to the practical purposes of the armament experts it is thought to afford an opportunity to investigate the reliability of expensive gun forgings, to ascertain with certainty whether incipient fractures exist in material which upon subsequent strain might prove disastrous results. Commodore Melville, Chief of Naval Engineers, foresees incalculable benefits to the work of his skilled corps, not only in the detection of hidden flaws in machinery upon which the efficiency of ships in action is totally dependent, but in studying the mysterious inner workings of boilers and other machinery.

Representative Miller, of Kansas, has already had enough of Congressional life. He is going to quit as soon as he can. He has made formal announcement that he will not be a candidate for re-nomination, although there seems to be no reason why he should not be re-nominated and re-elected. "But," says he, "I find that a continued service in Congress must result in the destruction of my law business, and this I cannot afford. When the additional expense necessarily incurred by a member of Congress is considered, the compensation paid is not sufficient to justify one as poor as I am in giving up a fairly good law business for the prospective honors of Congressional life."

Representative Joy, of Missouri, has a private Secretary named Sweet. It is a happy combination.

Senator Hill is not nearly so fierce against social distractions as his words would imply. He is constantly going more and more into society, and it is no uncommon thing to find him at some "function" as often as four evenings a week.

Comrade Pinerea, the widely famous Mayor of Detroit, was in the city last week, and pressed himself with his usual freedom. He is a tall, well-built man, weighing about 200 pounds, well-dressed, and pleasant in manner and conversation. He is convinced that Washington needs better lighted streets, lower car-fares, an abolition of horse-cars, and cheaper gas. He is enthusiastically for Tom Reed.

Senator Tillman says he has a brick in his pocket for Senator D. B. Hill. If he ever throws it there will be a fine shandy, and Tammany "chin-wag" will be fairly matched against South Carolina "wool-hat" bull-ragging. I'll give odds on Senator Hill.

The present Administration has added 12,644 positions to the Civil Service classification, making now 55,600 places under the rules.

The military authorities, considering that they have been completely vindicated by the decision of the Court of Appeals, will drop the Ames case, unless the Major shall again do something to call for their action.

In an interview recently Long said: "Simpson is an out-and-out free-trader and a follower of Henry George. That means that he is in the vanguard of free trade. It means, too, that he believes in confiscating land, for that is a logical result of the theories advocated by Henry George and which are endorsed by Mr. Simpson. The people in my District are land owners, being mostly farmers. Naturally they are not carried away by Mr. George's theories. As Mr. Simpson endorsed the Wilson bill as a step toward free trade the people of our District think that it is only right that he should shoulder the responsibility of the distress that has been brought upon them by the passage of that bill."

Ex-Congressman D. D. Barnes, of the Fourth Missouri District, succeeded by a Republican, the first of that party faith in about 20 years, George C. Crowther, who, although his hair is white, is a comparatively young man. Crowther started in life as a printer and editor. He conducted a Republican paper at Chanute, Kan., and subsequently moved to St. Joseph, Mo., and was elected City Collector and Comptroller in succession. In 1892 he was defeated for Congress by Mr. Barnes. He declined a re-nomination, and Crowther was elected hand down over the Democratic nominee, principally through the aid of the young Republicans of his District.

**CONFIRMED THE NOMINATION.**  
The Senate has confirmed the nomination of Gen. J. J. Coppinger, a Colonel in the Army, to be Brigadier-General by the decisive vote of 44 to 17. The nomination was sent to the Senate.

## The Only One To Stand the Test.

Rev. William Copp, whose father was a physician for over fifty years, in New Jersey, and who himself spent many years preparing for the practice of medicine, but subsequently entered the ministry of the M. E. Church, writes: "I am glad to testify that I have had analyzed all the sarsaparilla preparations known in the trade, but

**AYER'S**  
is the only one of them that I could recommend as a blood-purifier. I have given hundreds of bottles of it, as I consider it the safest as well as the best to be had."—Wm. Copp, Pastor M. E. Church, Jackson, Minn.

**AYER'S**  
THE ONLY WORLD'S FAIR Sarsaparilla  
When in doubt, ask for Ayer's Pills

ate very soon after the convening of Congress, but had scarcely been made public when protests against confirmation began to pour in from the American Protective Association, societies in all parts of the country. The opposition to confirmation was led by Senators Burrows, Gear, Perkins, Teller, Pettigrew, Squire, and Wilson. The vote for confirmation included all the members of the Committee on Military Affairs, who were supported by the conservative Senators, who generally follow committee recommendations.

**FOR A PARK AT VICKSBURG.**  
In furtherance of a long-ago conceived plan for the establishment of a National Military Park at Vicksburg an Association comprised of Northern and Southern veterans was incorporated under the laws of the State of Mississippi, Oct. 23, 1895, with Gen. Stephen D. Lee, of Mississippi, as president; Maj. C. L. Davidson, of Iowa, Vice-President; Capt. T. T. Shelby, of Iowa, Secretary; Col. C. C. Flowerlee, of Mississippi, Treasurer; and a Board of 20 Directors, consisting of about an equal number of Northern and Southern veterans, of at least a dozen Northern and Southern States, most of whom were active participants in the Vicksburg campaign.

The Association at once entered upon the work of a preliminary survey of the old battle-grounds under the direction of a competent engineer, and of securing options on the land to be included in the park. This work was completed on the 10th of January, when a bill was prepared, and on the 20th ult. was presented to Congress by Hon. T. C. Catesby, of Mississippi. The bill provides that the main body of the park shall comprise a tract of land about three miles long by not to exceed one-half mile in width, extending from the stockade fort on the north to Fort Garret, or the square fort, on the south, with two wings, each 200 feet wide, extending from the north end of the main body of the park to the river north of the city, and the same from the south end of the main body of the park to the river south of the city, these wings taking in the lines of the two armies not included in the main body of the park. The whole contains about 1,200 acres, and by the terms of the bill is to cost not to exceed \$50,000.

The Executive Committee is composed of Gen. A. J. Vaughan, of Tennessee; Gov. W. D. Hoard, of Wisconsin; Capt. W. W. Stone, of Mississippi; Gen. A. H. Hokenloper, of Ohio; and Capt. E. S. Batts, of Mississippi. The Directors are: Col. J. K. P. Thompson, of Iowa; Gen. George F. McGinnis, of Indiana; Col. J. S. Evans, of Illinois; Gen. Lucius F. Phillips, of Wisconsin; Col. Frederick D. Grant, of New York; Gen. A. G. Weissert, of Wisconsin; Col. J. P. Ren, of Minnesota; Gen. Joseph Stockton, of Illinois; Gen. John McCreedy, of Illinois; Gen. John Kuntze, of Ohio; Gen. John M. Stone, of Mississippi; Gen. Robert McCulloch, of Missouri; Capt. J. S. Pilcher, of Tennessee; Gen. E. W. Peters, of Alabama; Gen. J. H. Brown, of Texas; Maj. W. N. Harrod, of Louisiana; Gen. J. C. Tappan, of Arkansas; Gen. T. N. Wain, of Texas; Gen. John McArthur, of Illinois; Col. Nelson Cole, of Missouri; and Rear Admiral George Brown, U. S. N.

**PENSION APPROPRIATIONS.**  
The Senate Committee on Appropriations has ordered the pension bill to be reported this week.

The estimates for the Pension bill amounted to \$141,381,570, and the House passed it with an appropriation of \$141,381,570. The committee increased it by \$25,750, the two items of increase being \$50,000 for fees and expenses of Examining Surgeons and \$2,750 for rent of pension agents' offices. It is now reported to the Senate the bill will carry \$141,381,570, the current year \$141,281,570 was appropriated.

As this bill passed the House it is provided that during the fiscal year 1897 whenever any claim for pension under the act of June 8, 1875, has been, or should be, rejected, suspended, or disallowed and a new application shall have been filed and a pension has been, or shall be, allowed in such claim, such pension shall date from the time of the filing of the first application, provided the evidence in the case shall show a pensionable disability at the time of the filing of the first application, and that he should have such first application, anything in any law or ruling of the Department to the contrary notwithstanding.

The House Committee struck out the limitation confining action to the first application, and made the provision general in its application until the law may, in the wisdom of Congress, be repealed.

**THE ST. PAUL CLUB.**  
An Organization Full of Vim, and Which Means Business.

A flourishing organization has been formed among the comrades of the Department, and already includes 150 of the most active and wide-awake men in the city. It is called the "St. Paul Club," and has for officers: Past Dep't Com. A. Dinsmore, President; J. B. Carter, First Vice-President; E. J. Sweet, Second Vice-President; J. H. Hendricks, Secretary; J. A. Gunnison, Treasurer. It holds monthly meetings in the Red Parlor of the Exhibit building, and is devoted to the promotion of the Department of the Potomac to the National Encampment at St. Paul, in line shape, with the famous Old Guard, composed wholly of veterans, as a social escort to the well-known Mount Pleasant Drum Corps, made up largely of Sons of Veterans. The Old Guard and the Drum Corps have always attracted the most flattering attention wherever they have gone, and their presence will add much to the color of the Encampment. The Club will also boom Baltimore for the National Encampment in 1897.

**PATRIARCH OF THE NAVY.**

William Plume Moore, the patriarch of the Navy, celebrated his 85th birthday Jan. 28 by doing an unusual amount of work at his desk in the Navy Department and receiving the congratulations of friends in the naval establishment from all over the world. Mr. Moore has been identified with the Navy a few months less than 70 years, having enlisted in 1827, when but 16 years of age. In 1843 he enlisted in the Navy, and has since that time served there continuously ever since. His special function has been the preparation of the commissions of officers appointed to the Navy, a duty he began to perform in 1843, and he has since that time performed religiously ever since. There is not an officer in the service to-day whose commission does not contain the initials of this veteran clerk. He is one of the old-fashioned men of the Government, and there is probably no record of anyone having a longer continuous service record. He is still in good health, and bids fair to continue in active service for some time to come. He is known to every man in the Navy, either personally or by reputation.

**PENSION OF JUDGE LONG.**  
In the case of Judge Charles D. Long, of the Michigan Supreme Court, argument was had before the United States Supreme Court here last week.

The case was opened by Mr. F. A. Baker, for Judge Long, who was followed by Assistant Attorney-General Whitney for the Government.

The proceeding in the lower courts was based upon the action of Commissioner of Pensions Lochren in reducing Judge Long's pension from \$72 to \$60 per month. Mr. Baker contended on behalf of Judge Long that his pension rate, having been indicated by Commissioner Tanner, became a fixed and vested legal right beyond the power of succeeding Commissioners to disturb except for actual misrepresentation and fraud.

On the other hand, Mr. Whitney argued that it is both the right and the duty of the Commissioner of Pensions to correct the rating of a pensioner whose former rating was based upon a false statement of facts, and that such correction is analogous to a patent or a grant. The claim to the pension is not a vested legal right.

**TRANSVAAL MATTER.**  
In view of the complications in the Transvaal arising out of the arrest of American citizens there, the President will soon appoint a Consul to Cape Town to fill the vacancy which has existed since the death of Mr. Minot. Mr. Minot died some months ago. The present Vice Consul and Acting Consul, Clifford H. Knight, is an Englishman, born in the colony. President Cleveland and Secretary Olney have the matter of the appointment of a Consul under consideration, and may be expected to decide very soon. The salary of the position was increased by the last Congress from \$10,000 to \$12,000 per annum. Mr. Manion is a native of New York, but was appointed Consul Agent at Johannesburg as a resident of South Africa.

## The "Better-Half"

The calendar plays strange tricks in this first month of the year. It is not like any other month—with its flying days. Perhaps there may be a fortnight of warm, bright weather. Blue skies, soft winds, and whiffs of violet scent pursue us as that Springtime is in the air, and we wonder where the Winter has gone and how he happened to slip away without our noticing him. Then come the cold, lagging, rainy days of February and March upon the heels of the joyous weeks of January, and we know that we have been tricked again.

The Suffragists have been in session and have had splendid meetings. They rejoice now in three stars on their flag—Wyoming, Colorado, and Utah. The Convention officially disavowed the Woman's Bible, which was a very wise thing, even though it hurt many of "the girls" to speak against their friend, Elizabeth Cady Stanton. Susan B. Anthony was for letting it completely alone, but because Elizabeth Cady Stanton had countenanced it and because she believes in freedom, absolutely, and did not desire to criticize in the Convention any work that the women chose to do outside of the Convention meetings. But among the Suffragists were many who knew that the woman's Bible would do their cause infinite harm. Many men and women regard it as an irreverent effort, and some consider it irreverent, unscholarly, and lacking in dignity. The Suffragists would have a much heavier burden than they could carry if they attempted to shoulder this book, and they wisely have dropped it entirely, and now though three or four prominent among them have connected themselves with it.



Our cat, taken from the New York Herald, shows the maiden with her furs and feathers and gently sloping shoulders. Everybody is so much in doubt as to what we will do next in the way of fashions that practically there are at a standstill, and it is not only because it is "between seasons," but fashion-makers are meditating on what they can safely insist upon in the way of a change, for Madame is delighted with the present styles and holds to them more firmly, and new ideas don't seem to tickle her fancy a bit. She wants big sleeves, plain skirts—close fitting, fluffy collars, and coats and shirt-waists; but perhaps something will happen in the Springtime.

Shirt-waists are payer and gayer and gayer. The girls are still wearing black satin neckties with their shirt-waists and tailor-made skirts and coats.

The new ribbons are very pretty. Old-fashioned checked and striped, the Dresden flower and striped, and plain, silken bands and bows will do much to make Springtime hats and frocksauteous.

Bustles! Padded hips! Sh! It's too awful to be told.

The new silks—and silks nowadays are so much worn for nice frocks for calling or "at home"—well, all of the new ones are striped; every single one.

Turquoise blue—now such a favorite for collars and belts and roses—will be fashionable for Spring and Summertime.

Some of the new organdies with Persian designs in soft, dark colors will be prettily made up over tulle of bright colors and trimmed with black or white lace.

Among the trimmings displayed in the stores nowadays one sees occasionally bands of Persian embroidery done in fine, indefinite patterns with silk threads, in soft blending colors, pink and blue, soft browns and faint greens. They are used for trimming white wool frocks for the evening, or cashmere, plain cloth or silk may be trimmed with them.

In a contest where the question was asked, What constitutes the ideal wife?—and a prize was to be awarded to the best description—one man wrote: "Give me a wife with a good appetite; then she will like her food well enough to cook it well and to provide plenty; she will enjoy her meals and so reign over them cheerfully, and she will be jollier and better tempered in every way if she enjoys her food." And there will not be many who will say him nay.

The Carina is said to have reproved the ladies of the Russian court for their cigar smoking. She told them that she considered a cigar in the mouth of a woman as bad as an oath in the mouth of a man, and furthermore forbade their coming into her presence with the odor of cigars about their garments, which is rather hard on the Russian ladies, because, if rumor be true, they one and all smoke like chimneys.

It is said that Eugene Field's daughter is preparing to give readings from his poems and stories.

We women are promised a new straw for Spring—bonnets and toques. It is to be fine and lace-like and jeweled, which seems very fascinating. And also it is said that we will have bonnets and hats of laffeta, shirred into pretty shapes and trimmed with velvets.

White neck ribbons are seen again. A fresh white ribbon is tied smoothly around the collar with a pretty bow in the back. One

When Baby was sick, we gave her Castoria.  
When she was a Child, she cried for Castoria.  
When she became Miss, she clung to Castoria.  
When she had Children, she gave them Castoria.

**PIANOS! ORGANS! FREE!**  
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NEW SOUVENIR CATALOGUE  
A new catalogue in 100 pages, with 100 illustrations of the latest and best pianos and organs, and a full description of each, is being sent free to all who will send for it. It is a valuable book, and one that every pianist or organist should have. It is being sent free to all who will send for it. It is a valuable book, and one that every pianist or organist should have. It is being sent free to all who will send for it.

woman who wore a frock of violet gingham, had a white ribbon around her throat, and the looked absolutely "stunning"; but her skirt hung most beautifully, her sleeves were graceful and the costume evidently was the work of a master-hand.

One of the Washington papers reports that a man named Royce has secured a patent on bloomers—both for the pattern for the garment and for its name. Now, gathered trousers or bifurcated skirts or Turkish trousers have been since the earliest times, and in various forms, and, in a general way, cannot be patented. The man may get a patent for some exact and particular pattern that he has, but to patent bloomers would be as impossible as to patent handkerchiefs or hats. He describes the patented garment in the following fashion: It is a very masculine and is applicable to a dressmaker would have fun trying to follow directions: "I claim as a new article of manufacture, bloomers; the same being formed of two duplicate patterns or cuts, each comprising a curved surface contiguous to inwardly converging lines, and ends joined to each other to produce the said bloomers."

Bloomer, by the way, is a purely American word. Mrs. Bloomer was the first woman to wear the reform costume. Her toilet consisted of trousers, long to the ankles like men's—a little wider perhaps than the masculine garments, but not differing much. With them was worn either a skirt to the knee or a long skirt to the knee, the trousers showed from a little below the knee to the ankle. They were not at all pretty nor graceful, but then the effect was about that of the old-time pantaloons—those abominable things that we observe in daguerotypes of our grandmothers and their contemporaries. The pantaloons were ruffled and generally made of white stuff, whereas the bloomers were straight and made of dark cloth. At any rate both were ugly. We women folk do some very funny things when we once get started.

**EDITOR BETTER-HALF:** Seeing I can, I'll send three of my six cooking recipes, for which I received a \$5 the six, for being considered by the judges the best of the hundreds sent in to compete for the prize. This was several years ago. I thought at the time it was owing to their extreme cheapness and simplicity. The "Better Half" seemed thankful for the suggestion to warm cloths for those who like to hang up clothes in the winter, and to their extreme cheapness and simplicity.

Original.—To cook beans without meat: After carefully sorting, wash and rinse well, and put them in cold soft water to soak overnight; put them to cook in the same water, adding as needed plenty of soft water (never stir them), and when perfectly tender add salt to taste, cooking gently till seasoned through. They'll be found excellent without further seasoning.

Original.—To make potato soup for a family of four, perhaps: Pare half a dozen good sized potatoes, cut them in pieces to boil in plenty of water, salt to taste; season with salt to taste; a little butter or cream added helps. Retain all the water in which they were boiled for the soup.

Tried and accredited fried cakes: Sixteen tablespoons of baking powder in a pint of flour makes a teaspoonful of salt. Add a coffee-cup of powdered sugar and nutmeg or spice to taste. Beat one egg well, and with two thirds of a pint of rice, sweet milk, mix into the flour and sugar, adding dough till it can be handled and rolled out, when it can be cut in any desirable shape, and fried in either hot lard or suet fat, previously prepared.

I will here take occasion to tell you and thank you for map of Bull Run, though I am too crippled and brain-shattered to be as interested. I would like to be in tracing out the beginning of the job, the nature of which was so little understood at the time, but which you are trying to have kept in mind.—Mrs. C. C. Williams, Waverly, Iowa.

The very latest scheme for fun is to have a poster party, which means that the girls come in frocks like those worn by the poster girls and wear their hair after the poster fashion—usually a long, smooth parting and a bun, close, though sometimes a fluffy-haired girl is posted, the straight part is considered more weird. The poster must be copied as faithfully as possible—scarlet hair, wasp waists, blue moons, pink dots and similar